

**PROPOSED TEXT OF WHITE HOUSE RELEASE
ON OXCART SURFACING**

PREAMBLES

1. Willful Disclosure

The White House announces the successful development of a supersonic aircraft whose performance far exceeds that of any other airplanes in the world.

2. Progressive Press Leaks

Recent press accounts have suggested the development of a secret supersonic aircraft whose performance far exceeds that of any other aircraft in the world, which the White House now wishes to clarify.

3. Crash or Forced Landing

A recent airplane crash or forced landing has called public attention to the development of a secret supersonic aircraft whose performance far exceeds that of any other aircraft in the world.

BASIC STATEMENT

The capability to conduct aerial reconnaissance has proved of vital importance to the United States and the Free World on many occasions. From 1957 onward the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board and the National Security Council urged that a high performance successor to the U-2 be developed. The previous administration charged the CIA with the development of a Mach three airplane in 1959. This decision was reviewed by the present administration in 1961 and the program continued on a high priority basis. Appropriate members of the Senate and House have been kept fully informed on this program since its inception.

The aircraft has been successfully developed by the CIA and began its flight test program in the spring of

1962. The airplane was designed and built by the Lockheed Aircraft Company group under Mr. C. L. Johnson. The J-58 jet engines were developed by the Pratt and Whitney Aircraft Division of the United Aircraft Corporation. This airplane has flown at more than three times the speed of sound and successfully solved the enormous technical problems associated with such flight.

The CIA airplanes have not been flown outside the United States. However, they do provide the United States Government with an important latent capability to examine promptly crisis situations which endanger world peace, such as that created in Cuba one year ago.

As the CIA development proceeded, it was recognized that it provided a technical base from which a number of military requirements established by the JCS could be met sooner than was originally expected. These requirements include both strategic and tactical reconnaissance, as well as long range interception. The Air Force has initiated a program aimed at procurement of similar aircraft which will begin to appear at normal military airfields in 1964 and 1965.

The development of this remarkable Mach three airplane has created an entirely new manned aircraft technology which can now be turned to other uses. The development of a supersonic transport will benefit greatly from the lessons learned in this program, especially in its use of titanium to solve the high speed heating problem. Arrangements are being made to make this and other important technical developments available, under appropriate safeguards, to all contractors who are competing for the SST program. The detailed performance of the CIA airplane will remain strictly classified and no further statements will be issued on this matter.

PROBABLE QUESTIONS

1. Will the CIA airplane be used to overfly the Soviet Union?

- (a) The utilization of this aircraft will depend on the threat to world peace which exists and the contribution that prompt examination can make to eliminating that threat or uncertainty. It will be used only upon my authority.

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2. Can you conceive of a situation in which you might use this airplane?
 - (a) I see nothing to be gained by crossing such bridges before we come to them.
3. How many airplanes does or will the CIA have?
 - (a) That is classified information and will not be released.
4. Can you tell us how far or how high this airplane can fly?
 - (a) The preceding statement gives the only performance information which is being declassified at this time.
5. Do you expect to make further releases on this subject or will there be a public display?
 - (a) No, there will not.
6. How many aircraft of this type will the Air Force purchase?
 - (a) That also is classified at this time, but they will probably buy significantly more than the CIA utilizes.
7. Does the Air Force plan to develop a long range interceptor version?
 - (a) Yes, we do plan to use this airplane as a model for a long range interceptor. As a matter of fact, steps have been taken to insure that some of the existing air-to-air radars be modified for installation in this airplane. We are going to wait until all the tests have been made and until it is clearly determined what is the over-all usefulness of this aircraft.
8. Can this aircraft be considered to be a replacement for the cancelled B-70 aircraft?

- (a) No, not in all categories, although it does utilize similar areas of technology.

9. Why was the CIA selected to develop this airplane?

- (a) For the same reason it was selected to develop the U-2.

10. Why was the TFX contract let at a time when this new aircraft was already in an advanced stage of development, and actually flying?

- (a) Each aircraft in the military inventory is designed to meet a different set of requirements; that is obviously true in this case.